

is the repair of social security and Medicare first and debt reduction, and then tax cuts?

Mr. RANGEL. It is the only responsible thing to do. We want tax cuts like anyone else, but the American people want to make certain that we have taken care of the social security system, we have taken care of Medicare, we have taken care of prescription drugs, reduced the Federal debt the best we can, and give an equitable tax cut.

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RANGEL. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DOGGETT. As the soon-to-be chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means himself, would the gentleman from New York expect that this year it would be possible to have a few fully paid for, not taken out of social security, but fully paid for tax cuts that could be targeted to help middle-class families?

Mr. RANGEL. There is no question, if we were talking about education, if we were talking about long-term health care, if we were talking about day care, if we were talking about removing the pains of the marriage penalty, these things we can and we will do.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. One quick question: Fix social security first, Medicare first, and then tax cuts?

Mr. RANGEL. You got it.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning hour debates pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 35 minutes a.m.) the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CALVERT) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

For our prayer this day, let us use the words of Isaac Watts:

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame, from everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, soon bears us all away; we fly forgotten, as a dream, dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, still be our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McNULTY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, A bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2490. An act making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2490) "An Act making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. KYL, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. DORGAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. BYRD, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is Private Calendar day.

The Clerk will call the first individual bill on the Private Calendar.

SUCHADA KWONG

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 322) for the relief of Suchada Kwong.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 322

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR SUCHADA KWONG.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Suchada Kwong shall be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for

issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Suchada Kwong enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), she shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status is filed with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Suchada Kwong, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 1, during the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 202(e) of such Act.

With the following committee amendment in the nature of a substitute:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR SUCHADA KWONG.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Suchada Kwong shall be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Suchada Kwong enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), she shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

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(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Suchada Kwong, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 1, during the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 202(e) of such Act.

(e) DENIAL OF PREFERENTIAL IMMIGRATION TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN RELATIVES.—The natural parents, brothers, and sisters of Suchada Kwong shall not, by virtue of such relationship, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RUTH HAIRSTON

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 660) for the private relief of Ruth Hairston by waiver of a filing deadline for appeal from a ruling relating to her application for a survivor annuity.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 660

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. WAIVER OF DEADLINE FOR APPEAL.

For purposes of a petition by Mrs. Ruth Hairston for review of the final order issued October 31, 1995, by the Merit Systems Protection Board with respect to its docket number SF-0831-95-0754-I-1, the 30-day filing deadline in section 7703(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is waived.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRANSFERRING CERTAIN LAND TO JOHN R. AND MARGARET J. LOWE

The Clerk called the Senate bill (S. 361) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer to John R. and Margaret J. Lowe of Big Horn County, Wyoming, certain land so as to correct an error in the patent issued to their predecessors in interest.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the Senate bill as follows:

S. 361

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TRANSFER OF LOWE FAMILY PROPERTY.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of the Interior is directed to issue, without consideration, a quitclaim deed to John R. and Margaret J. Lowe of Big Horn County, Wyoming, to the land described in subsection (b): *Provided*, That all minerals underlying such land are hereby reserved to the United States.

(b) LAND DESCRIPTION.—The land referred to in subsection (a) is the approximately 40-acre parcel located in the SW¼SE¼ of Section 11, Township 51 North, Range 96 West, 6th Principal Meridian, Wyoming.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRANSFERRING TO PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF ESTATE OF FRED STEFFENS CERTAIN LAND COMPRISING THE STEFFENS FAMILY PROPERTY

The Clerk called the Senate bill (S. 449) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer to the personal representative of the estate of Fred Steffens of Big Horn County, Wyoming, certain land comprising the Steffens family property.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the Senate bill as follows:

S. 449

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TRANSFER OF STEFFENS FAMILY PROPERTY.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—Subject to subsection (b) and valid existing rights, the Secretary of the Interior shall issue, without consideration, a quitclaim deed to Marie Wambeke of Big Horn County, Wyoming, the personal representative of the estate of Fred Steffens, to the land described in subsection (c).

(b) RESERVATION OF MINERALS.—All minerals underlying the land described in subsection (c) are reserved to the United States.

(c) LAND DESCRIPTION.—The land described in this subsection is the parcel comprising approximately 80 acres and known as "Farm Unit C" in the E½NW¼ of Section 27 in Township 57 North, Range 97 West, 6th Principal Meridian, Wyoming.

(d) REVOCATION OF WITHDRAWAL.—The withdrawal for the Shoshone Reclamation Project made by the Bureau of Reclamation under Secretarial Order dated October 21, 1913, is revoked with respect to the land described in subsection (c).

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KEVIN MILLWOOD

(Mrs. MYRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, thousands of boys in North Carolina's 9th Congressional District grow up dreaming about playing baseball in the big leagues. I rise today in honor of one of these boys, a young man who has made it to the top. Kevin Millwood, a 1993 graduate of Bessemer City High School, had a break-out season for the Richmond Braves in 1997, and he was called down to Atlanta.

He has been on a tear ever since. This year he led the Braves' pitching staff with an 11 and 5 record and was elected to the National League team for last year's All Star game. Up in Boston, he continued his dominance, pitching a scoreless inning in which he allowed one hit and then retired the side.

So congratulations, Kevin. You are a positive example for young people to follow, and we sure are proud of you.

MASSIVE TRADE DEFICITS FOR U.S.

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, another record one-month trade deficit approaching \$20 billion. That means there were another 400,000 American manufacturing high-paying jobs lost last month.

American workers keep going from factories to McDonald's, from steel mills to service centers, from banks to bankrupt, and no one in Washington is even paying attention.

Check it out. Free trade for Mexico, free trade for Africa, free trade for

China, free trade for Europe, and massive trade deficits for the United States of America.

Beam me up. This is not a trade policy. This is a giveaway.

I yield back what high-paying jobs with benefits we have left.

WELCOME HOME TO NEVADA AIR NATIONAL GUARD, 152ND INTELLIGENCE SQUADRON

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise on a special occasion as the members of the Nevada International Guard 152nd Intelligence Squadron, activated to support Operation Allied Force, will be returning home today.

While activated, the unit members provided their years of experience in intelligence-gathering, assisting with the analysis of reconnaissance imagery and battle damage assessment. The analysts' primary focus was analyzing all the images acquired by the "Predator" Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and some imagery from the U-2.

The unit was called on because of the reputation and experience it acquired from over 30 years in the reconnaissance and intelligence arena. Flying various aircraft, the images it gathered on its missions were processed, interpreted and then fed back to the theater for mission planning and battle damage assessment.

The Intelligence unit was previously deployed during the Persian Gulf War where its products were used throughout the war for evaluating the effectiveness of the missions and planning.

On behalf of myself and the State of Nevada, I would like to welcome our troops home. Job well done.

DEMOCRATS' STRATEGY IS TO BLOCK LEGISLATION

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, just listen to this quote taken from the Washington Post recently, "It's not our responsibility to legislate anymore. It doesn't make sense for us to compromise." End quote. It does not make sense for us to compromise.

These words come from a leader of the Democratic Party, the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK). It appears that the gentleman from Massachusetts has let the cat out of the bag. The Democrats have no intention of working with the Republican majority.

Their strategy is to block all legislative efforts and then turn around and blame Republicans, attacking the do-nothing Congress. Will the fair and balanced media help them in that effort?